What is claimed is:

A cosmetic composition comprising, in a cosmetically acceptable aqueous or aqueous/alcoholic medium,

at least one acrylic copolymer formed from (a) approximately 35 to 75 % by weight of an alkyl acrylate, (b) approximately 25 to 65 % of alkyl methacrylate and (c) approximately 1 to 15 % of at least one ethylenic carboxylic acid having from 3 to 5 carbon atoms, the alkyl radicals having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms and the percentages being expressed with respect to the total weight of the copolymer, and

at least one polymer selected from a fixing polymer and a conditioning polýmer.

- A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one 2. acrylic copolymer exhibits a glass transition temperature of from 10 to 50°C approximately and a number-average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000.
- A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one 3. acrylic copolymer is an ethyl acrylate/methyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid/acrylic acid copolymer
- A composition according to Claim 3, wherein said at least one 4. acrylic copolymer comprises 50 to 60 % by weight of ethyl acrylate, 30 to 40 %

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, ARABOW, GARRETT 8 DUNNER, L. L. P. 300 I STREET, N. W. ASHINGTON, DC 20005 202-408-4000

-40-

by weight of methyl methacrylate, from 2 to 10 % by weight of acrylic acid and from 2 to 10 % by weight of methacrylic acid, the total concentration of acrylic and methacrylic acid not exceeding 15 % by weight with respect to the total weight of the copolymer.

- 5. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein, said at least one polymer selected from a fixing polymer and a conditioning polymer is present in concentrations of from 0.1 % to 20 % by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.
- 6. A composition according to Claim 5, wherein said at least one polymer selected from a fixing polymer and a conditioning polymer is present in concentrations of from 1 % to 10 % by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.
- 7. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the concentration of said acrylic copolymer is from 0.01 to 15 % by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.
- 8. A composition according to Claim 7, wherein the concentration of said acrylic copolymer is from 0.05 to 8 % by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L. L. P. 1300 I STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 202-408-4000

## Attorney Docket No. 5725.0134-00

- 9. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one polymer selected from a fixing polymer and a conditioning polymer is selected from anionic, cationic, amphoteric and non-ionic polymers and their mixtures.
- 10. A composition according to Claim 9, wherein said anionic polymers are selected from:
- copolymers of acrylic acid;
- copolymers derived from crotonic/acid;
- polymers derived from maleic, fumaric or itaconic acids or anhydrides with vinyl esters, vinyl ethers, vinyl halides, phenylvinyl derivatives or acrylic acid and its esters;
- copolymers of methacrylic acid and of methyl methacrylate;
- the copolymer of methacrylic acid and of ethyl acrylate;
- the vinylpyrrolidone/acrylic acid/lauryl methacrylate terpolymer; and
- the methacrylic acid/ethyl acrylate/tert-butyl acrylate terpolymer.
- 11. A composition according to Claim 10, wherein said copolymer of acrylic acid is an acrylic acid/ethyl acrylate/N-tertbutylacrylamide terpolymer.
- 12. A composition according to Claim 10, wherein said copolymer derived from crotonic acid is a vinyl acetate/vinyl terbutyl benzoate/crotonic acid terpolymer or a crotonic acid/vinyl acetate/vinyl neododecanoate terpolymer.

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L. L. P. 1300 I STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, DC 2000S 202-408-4000

- 13. A composition according to Claim 10, wherein said anionic polymer is a monoesterified maleic anhydride/methyl vinyl ether copolymer.
- 14. A composition according to Claim 9, wherein said cationic polymers are selected from:
- the copolymer of acrylamide and of dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, quaternized with dimethyl sulphate,
- copolymers of acrylamide and of methacryloyloxyethyltrimethylammonium chloride,
- the copolymer of acrylandide and of methacryloyloxyethyltrimethylammonium methyl sulphate,
- optionally quaternized vinylpyrrolidone/dialkylaminoalkyl acrylate or methacrylate copolymers,
- the dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate/vinylcaprolactam/vinylpyrrolidone terpolymer,
- and the quaternized dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamide/vinylpyrrolidone copolymer.
- 15. A composition according to Claim, a, wherein said amphoteric polymers are selected from polymers/containing upits deriving:

B

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT
8 DUNNER, L. L. P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

202-408-4000

- a) from at least one monomer selected from acrylamides and methacrylamides substituted on the nitrogen by an alkyl radical,
- b) from at least one acidic comonomer containing at least one reactive carboxyl group, and
  - c) from at least one basic comonomer.
- 16. A composition according to Claim 15, wherein said at least one basic co-monomer is selected from esters of acrylic and methacrylic acids containing at least one primary, secondary, tertiary or quaternary amine substituent and the product from the quaternization of dimethylamino ethyl methacrylate with dimethylsulfate or diethylsulfate.
- 17. A composition according to Claim 9; wherein said amphoteric polymers are selected from copolymers whose CTFA name is Octylacrylamide/acrylates/butylaminoethyl methacrylate copolymer.
- 18. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is pressurized in the form of an aerosol.
- 19. A composition according to Claim 18, wherein said composition comprises from 10 to 50 % by weight of a propellant with respect to the total weight of the composition.

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L. L. P. 1300 I STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 202-408-4000



- 20. A method for improving the quality of the vaporization and/or the spraying of a cosmetic composition, said method comprising the step of inculding an effective amount of an aerylic copolymer as defined in Claim 1 in a cosmetic composition comprising at least one polymer selected from a fixing polymer and a conditioning polymer.
- 21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said cosmetic composition is aerosol-pressurized.
- 22. A method for the cosmetic treatment of a keratinous substance, said method comprising the steps of

applying a cosmetically effective amount of a cosmetic composition as defined in Claim 1 to the keratinous substance.

thereafter optionally rinsing with water, and optionally providing a setting time prior to said rinsing step.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein said keratinous substance is hair.

183

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT
8 DUNNER, L. L. P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000